

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RABAT 02052 291727Z

70

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /054 W

----- 096566

R 291605Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5266

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 2052

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT MO

SUBJ: KING ON ELECTIONS AND OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN
GOVERNMENT

1. KING HASSAN, IN INTERVIEW WITH "FRANCE INTER" PUBLISHED BY SEMI-OFFICIAL MOROCCAN PRESS APRIL 29, ADDRESSED ISSUE OF FUTURE ELECTIONS AND PARTICIPATION OF OPPOSITION PARTIES IN GOVERNMENT. AS IN MARCH 3 THRONE DAY SPEECH (RABAT 1129), HE CITED NEED FOR SOLIDARITY ON SAHARA AS NECESSITATING HIS DECISION TO POSTPONE ELECTIONS. IN AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN, A COUNTRY DOES A "STRIPTEASE", HE COMMENTED, AND IT WOULD BE DISAGREEABLE TO HIM AND USELESS TO THE STATE TO DISRUPT CURRENT UNITY ON SAHARA OVER PURELY INTERNAL DISSENSIONS "WHICH MAY EXIST BETWEEN THE POLITICAL PARTIES."

2. COMMUNAL, MUNICIPAL, PROVINCIAL, PROFESSIONAL, AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS HAD NOT BEEN POSTPONED, KING CONTINUED. ON CONTRARY, A TIMETABLE WOULD BE WORKED OUT AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD BE ASKED, THROUGH HAVING MINISTERS IN GOVT, TO OVERSEE THESE ELECTIONS, HE ELABORATED. ONLY AT A MORE DISTANT TIME, KING ADDED, WOULD HE SEE ABOUT PROBLEM OF GENERAL ELECTIONS.

3. KING ALSO STATED THAT HE HAD CONSULTED POLITICAL PARTIES BEFORE HE DECIDED TO POSTPONE GENERAL ELECTIONS, AND ALL HAD APPROVED THIS IDEA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 RABAT 02052 291727Z

4. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF KING'S

VIEWS ON ELECTION ISSUE SINCE MARCH 3 THRONE DAY SPEECH, ALTHOUGH PRIVATE ECHOES HAVE REACHED US THROUGH OPPOSITION POLITICIANS (RABAT 1259 AND 1996). TIMING AND MODALITIES OF ELECTIONS AND PARTY PARTICIPATION IN GOVT REMAIN IMPRECISE. KING, HOWEVER, DREW A SHARPER DISTINCTION IN THIS INTERVIEW THAN IN PAST BETWEEN PROFESSIONAL AND LOCAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS WHICH COULD BE HELD RELATIVELY SOON AND GENERAL ELECTIONS WHICH TO BE CONSIDERED "AT A MORE DISTANT TIME." PROFESSIONAL AND MUNICIPAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS HAD BEEN GENERALLY VIEWED BY POLITICAL PARTIES AS FLOWING NATURALLY AND WITHOUT UNUSUAL DELAY INTO LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS (ONE THIRD OF LEGISLATURE, ACCORDING TO 1972 CONSTITUTION, IS CHOSEN BY PROFESSIONAL AND LOCAL BODIES, AND TWO THIRDS BY DIRECT VOTE).

5. KING ALSO NOW APPEARS DEFINITELY INCLINING TOWARD POLITICAL PARTY PARTICIPATION IN A GOVT WITH LIMITED ROLE OF SUPERVISING ELECTIONS, RATHER THAN COALITION WITH BROADER POWERS. ISTIQLAL AND USFP TELL US THEY ARE AMENABLE TO THIS APPROACH, WHILE PPS HAS FAVORED BROADER RESPONSIBILITIES FOR A UNITY CABINET. ISTIQLAL AND USFP, MEANWHILE, HAVE STRESSED TO US PRIVATELY THAT THEY DID NOT ACQUIESCE WILLINGLY BEFOREHAND IN POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS, AS KING NOW MAINTAINING PUBLICLY.

6. BIG QUESTION OF COURSE REMAINS HOW FAST AND FAR KING WILL ACTUALLY GO TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF THESE INTERNAL POLITICAL CONCEPTS. NEVERTHELESS, KING'S INTERVIEW SHOULD HELP SUSTAIN CURRENT HOPES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES FOR PARTICIPATION IN A UNITY GOVERNMENT, WHICH THEY THINK COULD COME AS EARLY AS JUNE OR JULY. INTERVIEW MAY ALSO HAVE BEEN CONCEIVED WITH UPCOMING GISCARD D'ESTAING VISIT IN MIND. KING'S RELATIVELY UPBEAT APPROACH ON INTERNAL AFFAIRS (AND ALSO HIS WARM PRAISE FOR MOROCCAN-FRENCH RELATIONSHIP ELSEWHERE IN INTERVIEW) SHOULD HELP FOSTER SUITABLE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE VISIT.
NEUMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, ELECTIONS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT02052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0674
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975047/aaaaagin.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING ON ELECTIONS AND OPPOSITION PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MO, (HASSAN II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006